

Books Rap Warren Report On JFK as 'Whitewash'

By GEORGE MORRIS

THE WARREN Commission buried its material on the Kennedy assassination in the National Archives, not to be touched for 75 years, but many books are now coming off the presses challenging its conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald alone killed John F. Kennedy, and that there was no conspiracy.

Moreover, the commission's conclusions are challenged largely on the basis of its own hearings compiled in 26 volumes, the FBI's summary and some glaring omissions and evasion of facts in its own report.

Most significant in the material now coming to light is the persistent view that more than one killer was involved and that either by inference or direct charge Oswald was an agent of one of the intelligence bodies or of some outfit that served as an undercover agent of a government intelligence body.

Harold Weisberg, investigator of the La Follette Civil Liberties Committee of the Senate that exposed the industrial spy agencies of the thirties, who served in other investigations of Nazi activities and monopoly practices, had to publish his book, "Whitewash," personally in offset form from typewritten pages because of offers to 103 publishers, despite widespread praise of the book, were turned down. The apparent key reason is the large section in the book in which, on the basis of the Warren Commission's own data, he builds up a comprehensive network of evidence of a strong case that Oswald was an intelligence agent, with most footprints leading to the CIA's doors.

Weisberg describes in a lengthy preface his futile efforts to get a publisher.

Sylvan Fox's "The Unanswered Questions About Kennedy's Assassination," issued by Award Books in 100,000 paperback has been selling since October.

M. A. THESIS

By the end of this month, Viking Press will publish Jay Epstein's "Inquest," a Cornell University master's thesis to have an initial run of 15,000.

Holt, Reinhart & Winston has announced it will have a first printing in 30,000 of former assemblyman Mark Lane's "Rush to Judgment." Lane was, for a period, attorney for Oswald's mother in the hearings.

"The Oswald Affair," by Leo

Sauvage, of Figaro, Paris, will be published by World Publishers next September.

The apparent hoped-for burial of the case has already been shattered as newspapers everywhere take notice of the new facts coming to light and much new analysis.

The Washington Post blazed out with a headline across the top of its front page May 29 and with a full page on the Weisberg and Epstein books.

The N. Y. Times also ran a lengthy summary of the trend in its Sunday issue June 5.

Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, too, is interested in a fully-documented story of the assassination, and is cooperating with William Manchester on a book that may not be published, however, until 1968, according to announced plans.

STAFF INTERVIEWED

Epstein wrote his book mainly on the basis of interviews with members of the Warren Commission staff. According to the Washington Post, Epstein found that not a single member of the commission heard all the testimony. Sen. Richard Russell was present at sessions where only six percent of the testimony was given, and only three commissioners heard more than half of the testimony with average for the entire commission 45 percent of the testimony.

Allan Dulles, who was CIA director during most of the period covered by background to the events, heard 71 percent of the testimony.

Richard Rovere, of the New Yorker magazine who wrote a preface to the Epstein book says:

"Nothing Mr. Epstein reveals is quite so shocking as the fact that this great investigation was carried out by men who could not give their full attention to it and who because of their own needs and also because of certain political circumstances were in a desperate hurry to get it over with. . . ."

Epstein says that McGeorge Bundy, who was assistant to President Johnson, and members of the commission pressed for completion of the report well in advance of the 1964 Presidential election. Deadlines were set for June 1, then extended to July 15, to Aug. 1 and eventually to September.

Epstein's major stress, as in Weisberg's book, is on the discrepancy in the first and second of the FBI's reports on the as-

sassination that became in effect evidence on which the Warren inquest was based. The first was submitted Dec. 9 and the "supplementary report" was dated Jan. 13.

The FBI report has been "declassified" and is therefore open for analysis.

The supplementary report was the basis for the commission's conclusions that the same bullet hit both the President and Gov. Connally of Texas.

The commission had the problem of explaining how two shots could be fired so accurately with a bolt-action rifle within 1.8 seconds, the time shown by films of the shooting.

Epstein's books contains 31 pages of the FBI's original report. Epstein quotes Norman Redlich of the Commission's staff as defending the report, but conceding:

"To say that they were hit by separate bullets is synonymous with saying there were two assassins."

And that is exactly the issue. If there were two assassins, another is running around loose to this day.

PREJUDICE

In two chapters on Oswald's connections, Weisberg does a devastating job of showing the commission's prejudice in filling much of the record with Oswald's alleged "Marxism." He shows, however, by the commission's own data that Oswald was an enemy of the Soviet Union and the Communist Party of the U.S., and that he claimed to be a "Trotskyite," rather than a friend of the USSR. Weisberg quotes extensively from Oswald's documents in which he spewed his hatred of the Soviet Union and the Communists.

Weisberg also advances the theory that "agents of agents" Oswald associated with were in the sphere of anti-Castro Cubans in this country. He pieces together bits of evidence that are in the Warren Commission's records, showing at least some relationship. He sharply criticizes the commission for not pursuing that path of investigation and for brushing off charges that Oswald was an agent of a group and was involved in a conspiracy. He calls attention to the involvement of more than one person in the several times Oswald took a post office box in his mail order purchase of a rifle and, later, in his dealings with a gun shop for attachment of a telescopic sight.